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| CERTIFICATE OF MAILING   |  |                |                |
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| I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to:<br>Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. |  |                |                |
| Typed or Printed Name  |  | Maria J. Sousa |                |
| Signature  |  | Date           | March 30, 2004 |

|  |                      |  |
|--|----------------------|--|
| <b>AMENDMENT UNDER<br/>37 C.F.R. §1.111</b><br><br>Address to:<br>Commissioner for Patents<br>P.O. Box 1450<br>Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 | Attorney Docket      | GUID-003CON3   |
|  | Confirmation No.     | 1695   |
|  | First Named Inventor | Taylor, Charles S.   |
|  | Application Number   | 10/020,451   |
|  | Filing Date          | 12/14/2001   |
|  | Group Art Unit       | 3736   |
|  | Examiner Name        | Nasser, Robert L.  |
|  | Title                | SURGICAL DEVICES FOR IMPOSING A NEGATIVE PRESSURE TO STABILIZE CARDIAC TISSUE DURING SURGERY |
|  |                      |  |

Sir:

This amendment is responsive to the Office Action dated December 30, 2003 for which a three-month period for response was given making this response due on or before March 30, 2004. In view of the amendments to the claims and the remarks put forth below, reconsideration and allowance are respectfully requested.

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